

Thursday 22 April 2021

Item 5 (d) Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Greetings Madam Chair, and all participants.

I make this statement on behalf of Te Kāhui Tika Tangata, the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.

I would like to reiterate our thanks to the Expert Mechanism for its visit to New Zealand in 2019 and for its valuable advice to support the development of a national action plan for the Declaration.

Since then, a ministerial Working Group was appointed and produced its [report](#) in late 2019. The report has a strong focus on the right to self-determination and tino rangatiratanga. It affirms the critical importance of a national action plan being developed in authentic partnership between the government and Māori – through co-design, co-governance and co-determination.

Further Government decisions on the plan were delayed with the advent of Covid-19.

We now look forward to momentum and progress on the action plan resuming, and welcome the New Zealand Government's continued commitment to the development of a national action plan.

I would also like to acknowledge the Aotearoa Independent Monitoring Mechanism, which has consistently and strongly advocated for the Declaration, and for continued progress on a national action plan.

Te Kāhui Tika Tangata looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Government, the Independent Monitoring Mechanism and others to progress this much needed work.

To this end, Te Kāhui Tika Tangata has been developing a series of papers and information materials to support public awareness and engagement in the development of an action plan.

Thank you Madam Chair. Tēnā rā tātou katoa.

Tricia Keelan

Pōu Ārahi | Deputy Chief Executive

Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | New Zealand Human Rights Commission